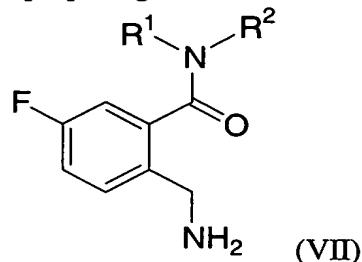


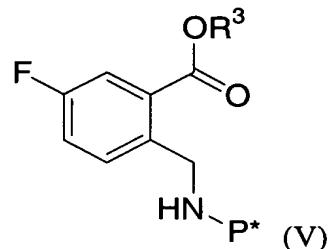
## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for preparing a benzamide compound of Formula (VII):

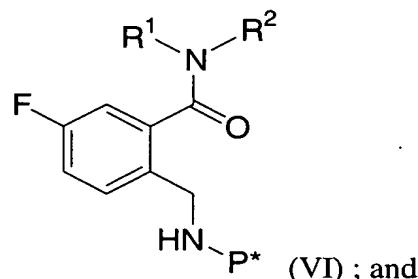


5 which comprises:

(Y) reacting a benzoate compound of Formula (V):



with an amine of formula  $R^1R^2NH$  in a solvent Y to obtain a benzamide compound of Formula (VI):



10 ; and

(Z) treating the benzamide compound of Formula (VI) with an amine deprotecting agent to obtain the benzamide compound of Formula (VII);

wherein:

15

$R^1$  and  $R^2$  are each independently:

(1) -H,

(2) -C<sub>1</sub>-6 alkyl, optionally substituted with from 1 to 5 substituents each of which is independently -OH, -O-C<sub>1</sub>-6 alkyl, -CN, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -N(R<sup>a</sup>)R<sup>b</sup>, -C(=O)N(R<sup>a</sup>)R<sup>b</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>a</sup>)R<sup>b</sup>, -N(R<sup>a</sup>)C(=O)R<sup>b</sup>, -N(R<sup>a</sup>)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>c</sup>, -N(R<sup>a</sup>)SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>c</sup>, -N(R<sup>a</sup>)SO<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>a</sup>)R<sup>b</sup>, -OC(=O)N(R<sup>a</sup>)R<sup>b</sup>, or -N(R<sup>a</sup>)C(=O)N(R<sup>a</sup>)R<sup>b</sup>,

5 (3) -C<sub>3</sub>-6 cycloalkyl, optionally substituted with from 1 to 4 substituents each of which is independently -C<sub>1</sub>-4 alkyl or -O-C<sub>1</sub>-4 alkyl, or

(4) 10 aryl, optionally substituted with from 1 to 6 substituents each of which is independently halogen, -C<sub>1</sub>-4 alkyl, -O-C<sub>1</sub>-4 alkyl, -CN, -N(R<sup>a</sup>)R<sup>b</sup>, -C(=O)N(R<sup>a</sup>)R<sup>b</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>a</sup>)R<sup>b</sup>, -N(R<sup>a</sup>)C(=O)R<sup>b</sup>, -N(R<sup>a</sup>)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>c</sup>, -N(R<sup>a</sup>)SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>c</sup>, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-2</sub>-O-C<sub>1</sub>-4 alkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-2</sub>-CN, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-2</sub>-N(R<sup>a</sup>)R<sup>b</sup>, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-2</sub>-C(=O)N(R<sup>a</sup>)R<sup>b</sup>, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-2</sub>-SO<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>a</sup>)R<sup>b</sup>, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-2</sub>-N(R<sup>a</sup>)C(=O)R<sup>b</sup>, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-2</sub>-N(R<sup>a</sup>)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>c</sup>, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-2</sub>-N(R<sup>a</sup>)SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>c</sup>, phenyl, or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-2</sub>-phenyl;

R<sup>3</sup> is -C<sub>1</sub>-6 alkyl, -C<sub>1</sub>-6 alkyl-aryl, or aryl;

15

P\* is an amino protective group;

each R<sup>a</sup> is independently -H, -C<sub>1</sub>-6 alkyl, or -C<sub>3</sub>-6 cycloalkyl;

20 each R<sup>b</sup> is independently -H, -C<sub>1</sub>-6 alkyl, or -C<sub>3</sub>-6 cycloalkyl; and

each R<sup>c</sup> is independently -C<sub>1</sub>-6 alkyl or -C<sub>3</sub>-6 cycloalkyl.

25 2. The process according to claim 1, wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are each independently -H, -C<sub>1</sub>-6 alkyl, -C<sub>3</sub>-6 cycloalkyl, or aryl.

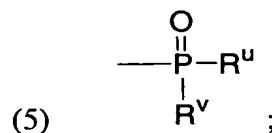
30 3. The process according to claim 1, wherein P\* is

(1) -C(=O)-O-C<sub>1</sub>-6 alkyl,

(2) -C(=O)-O-CH<sub>2</sub>-aryl,

(3) -C(=O)-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>0-1</sub>-CH=CH<sub>2</sub>,

(4) 
$$\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ \parallel \\ \text{---P---OR}^s \\ | \\ \text{OR}^t \end{array} , \text{ or}$$



wherein  $R^s$  and  $R^t$  are each independently -C1-6 alkyl, -CH<sub>2</sub>-aryl, or aryl ; and

$R^u$  and  $R^v$  are each independently an aryl group.

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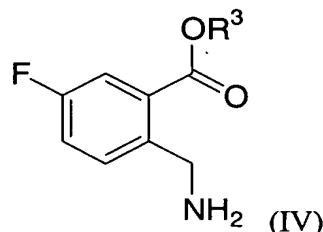
4. The process according to claim 1, wherein the reaction in Step Y is conducted at a temperature in a range of from about 50 to about 200 °C.

5. The process according to claim 1, wherein the amine of formula  $R^1R^2NH$   
10 is employed in Step Y in an amount in a range of from about 1 to about 200 equivalents per equivalent of benzoate compound V.

6. The process according to claim 1, wherein the solvent Y is selected from the group consisting of aromatic hydrocarbons, halogenated aliphatic hydrocarbons, alcohols, 15 ethers, and nitriles.

7. The process according to claim 1, wherein  $P^*$  is an amino protective group capable of being cleaved by an acid and the amine deprotecting agent in Step Z comprises an acid Z that is employed in an amount in a range of from about 0.1 to about 100 equivalents per 20 equivalent of benzamide compound VI; and the treatment in Step Z is conducted at a temperature in a range of from about -50 to about 150°C.

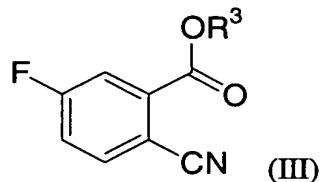
8. The process according to claim 1, which further comprises:  
(X) treating a benzoate compound of Formula (IV):



with an amine protecting agent containing the group  $P^*$  in a solvent X to obtain the benzoate

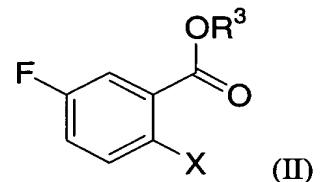
compound of Formula (V).

9. The process according to claim 8, which further comprises:  
 (W) hydrogenating a benzonitrile of Formula (III):



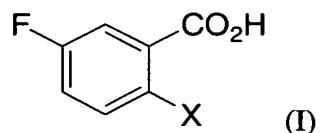
in a solvent W and in the presence of a transition metal catalyst to obtain the benzoate compound of Formula (IV).

10. The process according to claim 9, which further comprises:  
 (V) reacting a halobenzoate compound of Formula (II):



15 in an aprotic solvent V with a cyanide compound selected from the group consisting of CuCN and Zn(CN)2 to obtain the benzonitrile of Formula (III); with the proviso that when the cyanide compound is Zn(CN)2, the reaction is conducted in the presence of a Pd compound and an activating ligand; wherein X is chloro, bromo, or iodo.

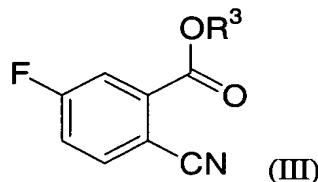
11. The process according to claim 10, which further comprises:  
 (U) esterifying a benzoic acid of Formula (I):



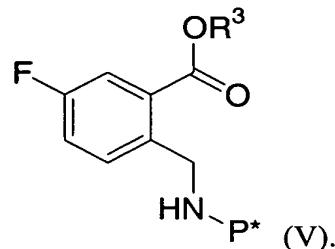
20 with an alcohol of formula R^3-OH optionally in the presence of an acid U to obtain the halobenzoate compound of Formula (II).

12. The process according to claim 1, wherein P\* is BOC, ALLOC, or CBZ; and wherein the process further comprises:

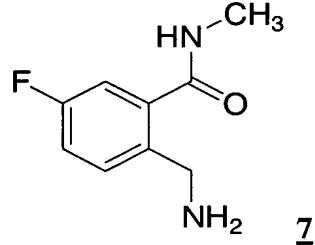
(XA) hydrogenating a benzonitrile of Formula (III):



in a solvent XA, in the presence of (i) (BOC)<sub>2</sub>O, (ALLOC)<sub>2</sub>O, or (CBZ)<sub>2</sub>O and (ii) Raney nickel, and optionally in the presence of a base to obtain a benzoate compound of Formula (V):

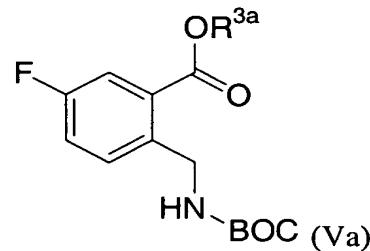


10 13. A process for preparing Compound 7:

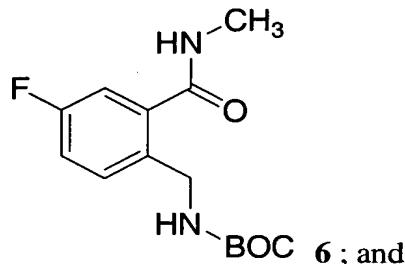


which comprises:

(yy) reacting a benzoate compound of Formula (Va):



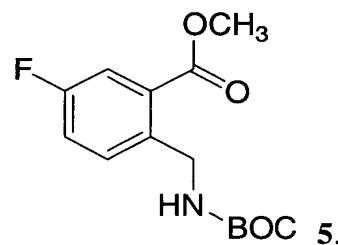
with methylamine in a solvent yy to obtain Compound 6:



(zz) treating the Compound 6 with an acid zz to obtain the Compound 7; wherein R<sup>3a</sup> is -C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl.

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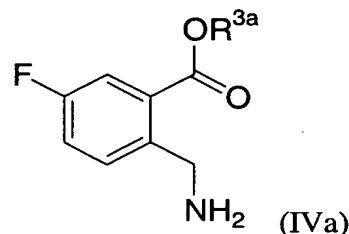
14. The process according to claim 13, wherein the benzoate compound of Formula (Va) is Compound 5:



10 15. The process according to claim 13, wherein:  
the reaction in Step yy is conducted at a temperature in the range of from about 75 to 150°C;  
methylamine is employed in Step yy in an amount in a range of from about 1.5 to about 5 equivalents per equivalent of Compound Va;  
15 the solvent yy is selected from the group consisting of alcohols, ethers, and aromatic hydrocarbons  
the acid zz is HCl;  
the acid zz is employed in Step zz in an amount in a range of from about 3 to about 15 equivalents per equivalent of Compound 6; and  
20 the treatment in Step zz is conducted in a solvent zz which is an C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl ester of a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylcarboxylic acid.

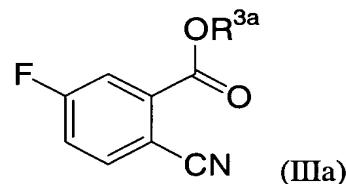
16. The process according to claim 13, which further comprises (xx)

treating a benzoate compound of Formula (IVa):



5 with an amine protecting agent containing the BOC group in a solvent xx to obtain the benzoate compound of Formula (Va).

17. The process according to claim 16, which further comprises (ww) hydrogenating a benzonitrile of Formula (IIIa):



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in a solvent ww and in the presence of a transition metal catalyst to obtain the benzoate compound of Formula (IVa).

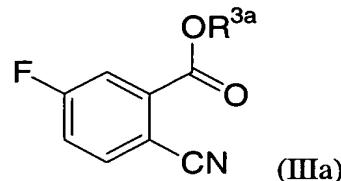
18. The process according to claim 17, which further comprises:  
15 (vv) reacting a halobenzoate compound of Formula (IIa):



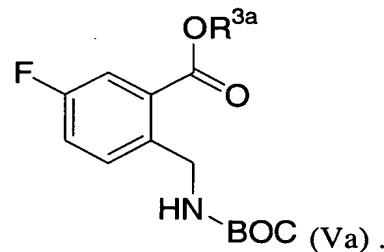
in an aprotic solvent vv with a cyanide compound selected from the group consisting of CuCN and Zn(CN)2 to obtain the benzonitrile of Formula (IIIa); with the proviso that when the cyanide compound is Zn(CN)2, the reaction is conducted in the presence of a Pd compound and an  
20 activating ligand; wherein X is chloro, bromo, or iodo.

19. The process according to claim 13, which further comprises:

(xxa) hydrogenating a benzonitrile of Formula (IIIa):



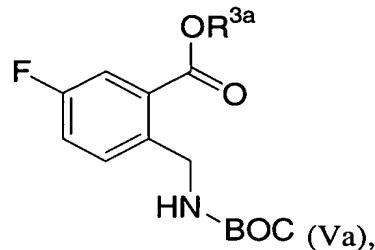
5 in a solvent xxa, in the presence of (BOC)<sub>2</sub>O and Raney nickel, and optionally in the presence of a base to obtain a benzoate compound of Formula (Va):



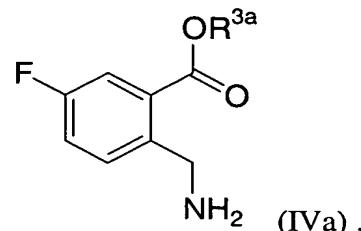
20. A compound selected from the group consisting of:

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a compound of Formula (Va):

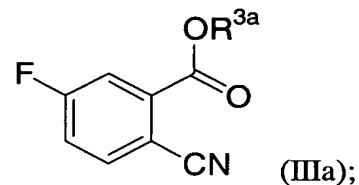


a compound of Formula (IVa):



a salt of a compound of Formula (IVa), and

a compound of Formula (IIIa):



5 wherein R<sup>3a</sup> is -C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl.